

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

January 5, 2011 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

ATTENDEES

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Matt Kozleski, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Paul Lee, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey", Rodolfo Castillo, Vallerie Fisher

Public Members:

Katheryn Flake, Justina Guyott,

City Staff:

Nora Liu (DPD), Pamela Banks (DON), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD), Veronica Sherman-King (DoN)

Agenda review:

- The committee approved the agenda.
- The committee decided to take public comment at the middle of the meeting, rather than at the end.
- Veronica Sherman-King, Facilitator, proposed including an item related to on-going agenda setting to agenda. The proposal was accepted.
- Meeting summary from December meeting is not yet ready. Draft meeting notes will be circulated for comment, approved at next meeting and then posted. As this is a special meeting, we are not approving previous meeting minutes at this time. Notes will be reviewed at next regular meeting.

Goal of meeting: Special meeting to clarify process, work products and role of NAC

Brief Presentation by City Staff:

- DPD staff distributed background material on previous planning efforts and current updates, as well as timeline. The goal of this information is to assist NAC in understanding their role in the process and the timeline of the process.
- Staff discussed community engagement in planning update work and where it falls on the timeline.
- NAC has role to play in setting agendas and providing advice on outreach and engagement with community.
- NAC will review community input and provide recommendations to the City.
- NAC will also help define topics for forum and how community forums will work.
- The importance of community outreach and engagement through POLs to reach underrepresented populations was stressed.

- POLs will encourage their groups to come to attend the community forum.
 - NAC is also tasked with identifying other organizations/people/groups who should give input.
- Q. Have meetings with POLS begun? Do they all have the same agenda? Who sets the agenda?
- A. Agendas are the same for all meetings. All of the questions will be the same for each group. First step is a survey/questionnaire. Questionnaire is currently being created. NAC will be asked to give feedback on this. Meetings have not yet started. POLs are currently being trained.
- Q. How many phases are there and how long is each phase?
- A. Each phase is roughly three months. Four phases are required to complete the plan update. Fifth phase is legislative process – adoption of updates. Documents are currently in draft form. NAC feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Public Comment Period

- Q. Why is public access and participation at NAC meetings limited? What is the basis for the limitation? There is a disconnect between discussion at NAC meeting concerning public participation and actuality of allowing public participation.
- A. The concern raised about time allotment for public comment will be addressed when we get around to discussing agenda setting– these decisions will affect how public participation at meetings will be handled.

Clarifying comment: The concern is not around the amount of time allotted for public comment period, but about limits on public involvement, i.e., not allowing active participation in NAC discussions.

Comments from NAC members:

- There seems to be confusion around NAC process and community engagement process. These are different processes. Time for public involvement comes during public engagement process, not during NAC meetings. Committee is not yet ready to go to public for input. Current level of work requires a small group, not large number of community members.
- It is understandable that community members feel frustrated for not hearing back from the NAC. We ask for patience as we are not there yet. The NAC has to first figure out how we are going to run before we get out to the public.
- It is easier to work with a smaller group than with the whole community as an advisory group; and that is why NAC is created.

Meeting was opened up for further questions by NAC.

- Q. Who is final decision maker?
- A. This is a community/collaborative process. If a recommendation/project has NAC, city staff and community support, then Mayor/Council are more likely to get behind it. Mayor/City Council are ultimate decision makers.
- Q. What are the methods of outreach to underrepresented populations?

- A. POL process is much more complex than what documents shared tonight show. For the most part, POLs outreach and engage the underrepresented populations through personal relationships, networks and respected community leaders. Robo-calls, emails, etc. don't work with all.
- Q. What is involved in the section on timeline titled "legislation"?
- A. Legislation refers to City Council adoption of plan goals and policies and plan updates. Zoning changes may also be enacted in conjunction with this process. Council adopted resolutions to recognize previous plan updates.
- Q. Any idea as to when the second community forum would happen?
- A. Second community forum is tentatively scheduled for the end of June/early July. Given Council's direction and the need to get strategies related to updates in front of Mayor and Council prior to budget cycle, we are tied to a fairly tight timeline.
- Q. Would it be possible for NAC members meet with POLs?
- A. POL time is very strictly budgeted. POLs will attend and provide interpretation and other assistance at the large community forums. We could consider having them attend a future NAC meeting. This topic will be discussed further at future meetings.
- Q. Does NAC have discretionary budget funds?
- A. There is \$30,000 in Neighborhood Planning budget for NAC to use after March forum for consultant scoping and selection process.
- Q. Can NAC use some of its consultant funding for meeting with POLs?
- A. We can have a future conversation about best use of these funds.

Comments:

- Focus on updates is to produce "real" projects that can be funded. First round of planning resulted in funding of lots of levies to provide funding, e.g., Bridging the Gap, Libraries for All, Pro-Parks.
- There are other funding sources in addition to the City. Neighborhood needs are greater than what the city can realistically provide. Need strategies to access other available dollars.
- The Community Forum will provide a good opportunity to network with other organizations/individuals.
- NAC member stated she would like to see strategies around advocacy/civic engagement in addition to the NAC process. The community needs to organize and advocate for projects recommended in the updates.

NAC agreed to add the topic of strategizing around advocacy/civic engagement to a future agenda.

- Q. What happens at the end of process? What are the results?
- A. The NAC can provide the kernel for a group to form in community to move things forward, leverage funding. Action teams will be formed around different work tasks identified in update. Groups can work on their preferred area of interest. We hope to

hold Forums every two years (coordinated with the City's budget cycles) after updates are finished to touch base and see what needs have been fulfilled, what has changed, what has come to the forefront.

Comments/Suggestions on Agenda setting:

- Need access to agenda earlier; soon after previous meeting
- Provide opportunity for NAC members to add items to agenda
- Could set tentative agenda at end of each meeting for the next meeting
- NAC should have time to give input on agenda prior to meeting
- Staff might have ideas for next agenda in mind to present to NAC
- Could utilize listserv for comments/discussion of proposed agenda items
- E-mail can be a challenging way to communicate
- DPD has begun to sketch out agendas for next four months
- Having prior knowledge of agenda would help NAC members to prepare for meetings in advance; allows NAC members to understand larger goals; removes uncertainty as to why certain things are being discussed

Consensus was reached for NAC to discuss these suggestions/proposed agendas at the next meeting.

Memo:

- Will keep memo suggestions in mind as group moves forward. It can serve as a filter and lens for work.
- Suggestion to have report-outs on items noted in memo.

Public Comment:

- Suggestion to focus on goals and policies and action plan, as well as project list, as those drive private investment. When economy improves and developers return to area, we should be poised to take advantage of reinvestment/redevelopment opportunities.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Spend time on laying out future and subsequent meeting agendas
 - Dig deeper into tasks and products of each meeting
 - City staff will bring draft questions to be used at community forum
 - Look at objectives, outreach, feedback etc. form
- Q. Parks and Recreation representative was scheduled for next meeting; would NAC members prefer a short presentation (for about 15 minutes) or to table it?
- A. Parks would need more than 15 minutes to present. For the future, NAC members would prefer only one department present at each meeting. NAC would like to invite Parks and Recreation, Office of Housing, Office of Economic Development, and Human Services Department to future meetings.

Consensus was reached to discuss these issues further at the next meeting.